

**CENTRAL PUGET SOUND FREEWAY HOV LANE HOURS  
OF OPERATION EVALUATION**

**BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the  
October 2002 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

Prepared by: Jerry Ayres, State HOV Policy Manager  
Reviewed by: Charlie Howard, Director, NWWD Planning and Policy Office  
and Toby Rickman, State Traffic Engineer  
Approved by: John Okamoto, Assistant Secretary, Northwest Washington Division  
and John Conrad, Assistant Secretary, Engineering and Regional Operations Division

**PURPOSE:**

Update the Commission on the Central Puget Sound Freeway HOV Lane Hours of Operations Evaluation.

**ACTION/OUTCOME:**

Review with the Commission the entirety of the data and analysis developed during the evaluation. The Commission will also be briefed on the study schedule and work plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

In February 2002, the Secretary and the Commissioners received a letter from the House Transportation Committee asking them to explore our policies on hours of operation for HOV lanes on central Puget Sound region freeways.

At its March meeting the Commission endorsed the department work plan for conducting the evaluation.

In May the department reported to the Commission on data collection and analysis activities, including the communication tools designed to assist the public with understanding the evaluation process and provide input on the study. Throughout the summer the department continued to report at Commission meetings as additional work was completed and as chapters were added to the HOV Evaluation Notebook and on-line project website. Change options were discussed at the June Commission meeting and a draft change options evaluation tool was presented at the August meeting. The final two Notebook chapters on Environmental Implications and Safety and Operating Considerations were presented and discussed at the September Commission meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

At the October meeting, staff is expected to review with Commissioners all the data and analysis conducted during the study. Staff will present change options and share partner feedback received to date on the study and change options being considered. Staff will review the study schedule and future steps to encourage public comment on the evaluation. The desired outcome includes providing Commissioners an opportunity to get answers to their questions about the study and to direct department actions toward study completion. Staff intends to reach a conclusion, draft a report, and present recommended actions for Commission approval at the November meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None required at this time.

For further information, contact: Charlie Howard, Director, NWWD Planning and Policy Office (206-464-1269); or Toby Rickman, State Traffic Engineer (360-705-7280).